

Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 MC-02

ACDA-05 EUR-12 IGA-02 AID-05 /094 W

----- 093245

R 220530Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3429

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

SECDEF

S E C R E T JIDDA 0464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YE, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI/YEMENI RELATIONS

REF (A) SANA 147, (B) DAO SAND 0016 20100Z JAN 76

1. WE HAVE AS YET DEVELOPED NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION HERE THAT THE SAG IS AWARE OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE YAR BEYOND THE "REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT" OF MIG 17'S, T34 TANKS, ETC, WHICH HAMD I TOLD THE SAUDIS ABOUT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. HOWEVER, FROM REFTELS IT APPEARS THAT THE SAG AND THE YAR ARE NOW TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND WE PRESUME YAR ARMS FROM THE USSR IS A PRIME TOPIC. THIS IS A POSITIVE ELEMENT WHICH WAS LACKING LAST FALL AND WE BELIEVE THIS LACK OF COMMUNICATION WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE RESULTANT MINI-CRISIS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. THERE REMAINS A DANGER OF A STRONG NEGATIVE SAUDI REACTION IF THE SAG SHOULD LEARN THE YARG HAS ENTERED INTO AN ARMS DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THEY HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE. THE SAG WOULD SUSPECT THE YARG HAD MADE SECRET POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET ARMS. FROM THE JIDDA PERSPECTIVE, THEREFORE,

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WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT EMBASSY SANA CONTINUE TO URGE

THE YEMENIS TO BE FRANK IN TALKING WITH THE SAUDIS. IF
THEY ARE NOT, THERE WILL BE LITTLE WE CAN DO TO REPAIR
THE RESULTANT SOURED RELATIONS. WE THINK THAT THE YARG
LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT ON THIS POINT.

3. THE SAUDIS NOW FINALLY SEEM TO BE DOING WHAT WE HAVE
LONG BEEN URGING THEM TO DO. WE CAN BEST KEEP THEM ON THIS
PATH BY BEING AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR PROPOSALS
FOR JOINT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR WHICH WE EXPECT
WILL EMERGE DURING THE MEETINGS IN RIYADH NEXT WEEK.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA00464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0062
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabbyl.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANA 147
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI/YEMENI RELATIONS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YE, SA, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006